

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

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**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A drip absorption mat to be laid under a drip-oozing food comprising:

10 an absorption sheet configured to absorb drips; and

a porous surface sheet adjoining the absorption sheet, and having a first side facing said absorption sheet and a second side configured to adjoin the food;

15 wherein said ~~drip absorption mat porous surface sheet~~ is configured to prevent color deterioration on a side of the food adjoining said porous surface sheet by ~~augmenting adding to~~ the breathability of said absorption sheet in both the horizontal and thickness directions.

2. (previously presented) A drip absorption mat according to Claim 1;

20 wherein said absorption sheet comprises a non-woven fabric having a thickness in the range of 0.3 mm to 3.0 mm.

3. (previously presented) A drip absorption mat, for use with a tray configured with a mounting surface on which the food is to be placed, according to Claim 1;

25 wherein said drip absorption mat is configured as a tray mat to be laid on the mounting surface of the tray between the tray and the food.

4. (previously presented) A drip absorption mat to be laid under a drip-oozing food comprising:

30 an absorption sheet configured to absorb drips; and

a porous surface sheet adjoining the absorption sheet, and having a first side facing the absorption sheet and a second side configured to adjoin the food;

wherein the drip absorption mat is characterized by a ventilation resistance, in the thickness direction, that does not exceed 1.00 Kpa·s/m.

5. (previously presented) A drip absorption mat according to Claim 4;  
wherein a ventilation resistance value of said porous surface sheet in the thickness direction does not exceed 0.20 Kpa·s/m.

5 6. (previously presented) A drip absorption mat according to Claim 4;  
wherein said absorption sheet comprises a non-woven fabric having a thickness in the range of 0.3 mm to 3.0 mm.

10 7. (previously presented) A drip absorption mat, for use with a tray configured with a mounting surface on which the food is to be placed, according to Claim 4;  
wherein said drip absorption mat is configured as a tray mat to be laid on the mounting surface of the tray between the tray and the food.

15 8. (previously presented) A drip absorption mat according to Claim 4;  
wherein said drip absorption mat is characterized by a ventilation resistance value in a horizontal direction that does not exceed 0.20 Kpa·s/m when measured by a test methodology, comprising:

laying a plurality of drip absorption mats one on top of another to build a drip absorption mat stack;

20 excising a cylinder of 28 mm in diameter and 5.0 mm thick in the direction of layering; and

aerating said cylindrically excised drip absorption mat stack in the horizontal direction.

25 9. (previously presented) A drip absorption mat according to Claim 8;  
wherein said absorption sheet comprises a non-woven fabric having a thickness in the range of 0.3 mm to 3.0 mm.

30 10. (previously presented) A drip absorption mat, for use with a tray configured with a mounting surface on which the food is to be placed, according to Claim 8;  
wherein said drip absorption mat is configured as a tray mat to be laid on the mounting surface of the tray between the tray and the food.

11. (previously presented) A drip absorption mat to be laid under a drip-oozing food comprising:

an absorption sheet configured to absorb drips; and  
a porous surface sheet adjoining the absorption sheet, and having a first side facing the and a second side configured to adjoin the food;  
wherein said porous surface sheet comprises a film having a plurality of protrusions, each protrusion having a convex side and a concave side;  
wherein a hollow cavity is formed adjacent the protrusion on the convex side; and  
wherein a pore is provided at the bottom of said concave side such that the protrusion forms a minute aperture.

15 12. (previously presented) A drip-absorption mat according to Claim 11;  
wherein a terminal portion of said porous surface sheet is in contact with the , and is notched so as to facilitate air flow between the hollow cavity and the aperture.

13. (previously presented) A drip absorption mat according to Claim 11;  
wherein said minute aperture is tapered with an opening of larger diameter on a side configured to adjoin the food.

20 14. (previously presented) A drip absorption mat according to Claim 11;  
wherein said absorption sheet and said porous surface sheet are adhered to each other in a manner that does not clog said minute aperture.

25 15. (previously presented) A drip absorption mat according to Claim 14;  
wherein the absorption and porous surface sheets are glued either at dots or in a line.

30 16. (previously presented) A drip absorption mat, for use with a tray configured with a mounting surface on which the food is to be placed, according to Claim 15;  
wherein said drip absorption mat is configured as a tray mat to be laid on the mounting surface of the tray between the tray and the food.

17. (currently amended) A drip absorption mat according to Claim 11;  
~~wherein said protrusions comprise not more than 30% of the total area of said surface sheet~~ said surface sheet defines a space occupied as a whole, said film occupying not more than 30% of the space occupied as a whole.

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18. (original) A drip absorption mat according to Claim 11;  
wherein the number of said apertures is not below 20 per 1 cm<sup>2</sup>.

10 19. (previously presented) A drip absorption mat according to Claim 11;  
wherein said drip absorption mat is characterized by a ventilation resistance value in a horizontal direction that does not exceed 0.20 Kpa·s/m when measured by a test methodology, comprising:

laying a plurality of drip absorption mats one on top of another to build a drip absorption mat stack;

15 excising a cylinder of 28 mm in diameter and 5.0 mm thick in the direction of layering; and

aerating said cylindrically excised drip absorption mat stack in the horizontal direction.

20 20. (previously presented) A drip absorption mat, for use with a tray configured with a mounting surface on which the food is to be placed, according to Claim 11;  
wherein said drip absorption mat is configured as a tray mat to be laid on the mounting surface of the tray between the tray and the food.

25 21. (previously presented) An absorption mat for receiving food item oozing liquid, comprising:

an absorption sheet configured to absorb liquid; and

30 a porous surface sheet adjoining the absorption sheet, and having a first side facing the absorption sheet and a second side for adjoining the food item, the first side defining a cavity between the absorption sheet and the surface sheet;

wherein the surface sheet is configured to support the food item while maintaining the cavity between the absorption sheet and the surface sheet; and

wherein the surface sheet defines pores that allow liquid from the food item to flow through to the absorption sheet.